

I have introduced legislation to repeal the airline tax in last year's budget bill. The highway bill, as I indicated, provided Hawaii with \$135 million in annual formula grants and will fund numerous priority projects. Money will be coming in, for example, to help needed improvements in Honolulu's harbor.

I will continue to call on Congress to pass funding for the International Monetary Fund. It is all too evident to the people of Hawaii that when the Asian economies suffer, the economy of our State suffers just as greatly. I might add by extension, Mr. Speaker, the mainland as well.

We should send this money because it is the right thing to do and because anything that stabilizes the Asian economies will help increase tourism and help to stabilize our own economic progress throughout the United States.

We must also focus on securing long-term solutions to our problems, improve our education for our children, higher medical care reimbursement. In Hawaii's case, I am helping to diversify Hawaii's agriculture and to upgrade the Pacific Missile Range Facility to help bring Hawaii's military facilities, which I have mentioned at the beginning of my remarks, Mr. Speaker, into the 21st Century.

I also want to upgrade Hawaii's telecommunications links to the mainland and the world.

Tourism, the military and agriculture will continue to be Hawaii's key industries in the next century. We must, however, be well prepared to guide the changes underway. In the long run, technology development and innovation, as well as diversity within those industries, will lead us back to economic growth, jobs and prosperity. We must make wise decisions in this time of economic crisis.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to resolve Hawaii's economic problems.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BOEHLERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WALSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, we have had quite a loud and lively debate here today about campaign finance. I for one think that that debate is healthy. Anyone watching this debate would see that there are very deep feelings about this issue. I think that all sides are speaking from the sincerity of their beliefs.

There are a lot of confusing issues on this issue of campaign finance. I for one do not think simply calling something reform means that that is going to make it better. In fact, some people would say that instead of campaign finance reform, this should be called campaign finance regulation.

In the definitions of campaign finance, we talk about hard money, we talk about soft money, we talk about independent expenditures, we talk about issue advocacy, we talk about a lot of magic words that a lot of people really do not focus on, do not understand.

I noticed that, during the debate today, that the minority leader referred to independent expenditures as being a real problem as someone else referred to independent expenditures as being a real problem. I do not really think independent expenditures are a real problem, because independent expenditures is express advocacy and already comes under FEC jurisdiction except in a few minute exceptions.

But if a person donates money to a candidate, and the candidate decides to give that money, let us say, to a not-for-profit group, there are some provisions in here, the Shays-Meehan bill, that would prevent, for example, political parties giving money to 501(c)(3) organizations or nonprofit organizations.

I for one think that political parties have a right to give money to nonprofit groups and allow them to get their message out on issues that are important to them. Issue advocacy was the real issue that brought us this whole debate to the House floor, because during the 1996 Presidential election, the Clinton/Gore campaign and the Dole campaign went farther than anyone had ever gone in raising soft money for issue advocacy by the political parties.

The only reason that there was difficulty with that is because a lot of foreigners made contributions to some of these political campaigns, and that is illegal under existing law. Section 441(e) of the Federal election law already makes it illegal for a foreigner to contribute to a political campaign.

Not only that, but also we know for a fact that, at the Buddhist Temple

fund-raiser, many individuals were listed as contributing hard money supposedly to a campaign, and then we subsequently found out that they did not actually contribute, but money came from foreign sources. So I would simply submit that we already have legislation on the books that can deal with the foreign money issue.

Now, another issue that is disturbing to many of us is the fact that some of these bills expand the definition of express advocacy. What that means is that, if you use express advocacy, you are expressly advocating the election or the defeat of a particular candidate. If you do that, then you have to file all the reports with the FEC. You have to meet the contribution limits and so forth.

I for one think that we have an opportunity in this debate that is I suppose to begin tomorrow to address some very serious issues, very serious constitutional issues regarding these pieces of legislation.

I know that tomorrow it will probably be another heated debate, but, as I said in the beginning of this statement, I know that both sides are approaching it with sincerity in their beliefs.

I see my time is about to expire, but I do look forward to the debate tomorrow.

SOFT MONEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I fully expected that we would be debating the rule on campaign finance reform at this time, but, unfortunately, there has been a delay. I do want to say that I think the debate today was enlightening at times, entertaining at other times. There were many Members of this body who have done great work on campaign finance reform, bipartisan work on campaign finance reform over the last 3 or 4 years: The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), people like the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP), the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA), the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY), new members like the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. ADAM SMITH), effective Members who have sat down to try to come up with a bill that is fair to both political parties. That is all we are trying to do here.

We do not have the perfect bill. We do not have the special magic wand that is going to make the system perfect. But let me tell you what we do